



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/000,316	10/23/2001	Andreas Goers	PHB71698	8925

7590 06/03/2004

ABB Inc.
29801 Euclid Avenue-4U6
Wickliffe, OH 44092-1898

EXAMINER

PATEL, TULSIDAS C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2839

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/000,316	Applicant(s) GOERS ET AL. A	
	Examiner T. C. Patel	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

General Status

1. This is a First Action on the Merits. Claims 1-6 are pending in the case.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Subtitles such as Background of the Invention, Brief Description of the Invention, Brief description of the Drawings, Detailed description of a Preferred embodiment, etc. are missing.

Applicant is required to review entire specification and make necessary corrections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green et al. (US 6,553,555) in view of Uzuka et al. (UUS 6,392,142).

Green et al. in figure1-4, discloses a modular system comprising a base 404 with a plurality of slots at 306, each for receiving pluggable electrical unit 402, the pluggable electrical unit being connected to the base by multi-pin plug in connection comprising plug-in contact device 306 and mating plug-in contact device 302, the base unit being provided with

Art Unit: 2839

signal processing means 102. However, Green et al. does not disclose the plug-in contacts being divided into three groups. Uzuka et al. in figure 5, discloses a plug-in unit 53 contacts divided into three groups. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide plug-in unit with contacts divided into three groups, and matching contacts on the back plane for the system of Green et al. as taught by Uzuka et al. so that more connections can be made.

In so far as the connection in the first group being permanent and that in second group being configurable lines, the disclosed device of Green in view of Uzuka et al. is capable of providing the function. Also, it should be noted that the computers are known to be provided with re-configuration of pluggable devices and that some of the circuit connections between the receiving connector and the processor and memory chips, clock, etc, on the back plane or mother board are permanent. For claims 4-6, the computers are known for having memory devices, also see figure 1 of Green et al.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's invention. MacLaren et al. (US 6,517,375), Sample et al. (US 5,352,123), Petit et al. (US 4,703,394), Bunner et al. (US 4,511,950), Johnson (US 4,686,607), Monico (US 5,006,961), Thompson et al. (US 5,990,981), Plunkett et al. (US 6,496,376), Fredberg (US 5,547,386), Gierut (US 5,648,891), Patriche (US 6,608,762), and Dean (US 6,672,878) all disclose card connection system.

Applicant also should consider these references in response to this office action.

Should issue arise concerning the rejection presented above, these references may be relied


Art Unit: 2839

upon in a subsequent action to support the lack of novelty or obviousness of claimed subject matter to one of ordinary skill in the art.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to T. C. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-2098. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 271-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


T. C. Patel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

Tcp
May 27, 2004